



The New England Cable News show "TV Diner" filmed in Duxbury on Wednesday, hitting a number of local restaurants. Here, host Billy Costa checks out the Sun Tavern's Lobster Nantuxbury with owner John Cowden. The episode is scheduled to air on Nov. 3.

'TV Diner' on the Menu

NECN show spends a day dining in Duxbury

By ADAM SWIFT

As some of the country's earliest settlers, John Alden, Priscilla Mullins and Myles Standish have all had their time in the limelight. Last week, their sandwiches took center stage.

TV host Billy Costa and the crew of the New England Cable News restaurant review show "TV Diner" were in town last Wednesday filming for an upcoming episode scheduled to air on Saturday, Nov. 3.

At the Duxbury Deli, owner Kathy Callahan filled Costa in on a quick history of the town as she prepared two of the deli's signature sandwiches, the John Alden and the Priscilla Mullins.

"John Alden, he was one of the original Pilgrims, and he invented this sandwich," said the animated host as he held up the turkey, roast beef, Swiss and Russian dressing sandwich to the camera.

Even when the camera was off, Costa couldn't stop talking about the perfect combination of chicken salad in the Priscilla Mullins.

"That's the way a chicken salad sandwich should be," said Costa.

Each week, "TV Diner" features restaurants from a different town or neighborhood, with Costa and his crew usually giving restaurant owners short notice that they'll be pulling into town.

Callahan said she got the call from the show the night before they visited.

"I'm just happy to be a part of it," said the beaming Callahan. "Everybody is buzzing and very excited. I just hope they like what we put out for them."

After the deli's sandwiches passed the taste test, Callahan was even happier.

"That was amazing," she said.

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'TV Diner' Show Comes to Town

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Costa, who nailed the filming of each of his Duxbury stops in one take, was just as happy to get the compliment.

"Amazing. Did you write that down?" he asked the reporter tagging along with his crew for the day.

"TV Diner" also stopped at the Wildflower Café, the Milepost Tavern, and the Sun Tavern, and at each stop, the food made the cut.

At the Wildflower, Costa and show producer Jenny Johnson dug into owner Tom Bissette's French toast sampler.

Like Callahan at the Duxbury Deli, Bissette didn't know he'd be cooking for the cameras until the night before.

"My wife was up all night wallpapering, but we pulled it together no problem," said Bissette.

While "TV Diner" may be best known for its restaurant reviews, the typical show also



Costa chats it up with some of the customers at the Milepost Tavern during the show's filming last Wednesday.

focuses on the culinary delights of a single town or a neighborhood in a larger city.

"We love to go to the towns and smaller cities as much as possible," said Johnson. "There are so many towns with so many great restaurants. You find a real passion out in the smaller towns and more family run places."

Costa played up the hometown, family feel of the Milepost Tavern as owner Patricia Johnson served some of the restaurant's most popular dishes.

"I bet the lobster casserole is the biggest seller," Costa said. "This looks like a lobster casserole type of room."

At each stop along the way, Costa, Johnson and cameraman John Bacon were served up plates of the best fare the cooks had to offer. As soon as Bacon stops filming, he explained, all the food is pretty much up for grabs.

"We just eat a little bit here and there," Bacon said. "We never finish a meal."

In addition to filming at the restaurants, the "TV Diner" folks made a quick stop at the Powder Point Bridge, where Johnson rapidly fired as many Duxbury facts as she could at Costa in the span of a minute.

While Johnson described the typical "TV Diner" filming as a whirlwind tour, and Costa was the consummate professional host on camera, she did have to

rein in the host once or twice to keep him on schedule.

At the Powder Point Bridge, Bacon and Costa spent some time discussing what kind of shells had washed up on the beach, before finally coming to agreement that it was a horseshoe crab.

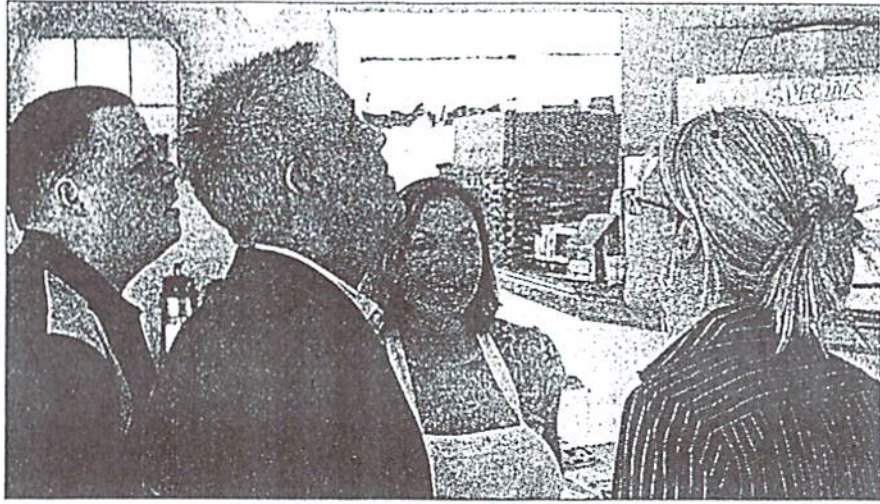
"Billy, focus," said Johnson, as she peppered him with some final Duxbury informational tidbits.

By the time Bacon turned on the camera, Costa was spouting enthusiastically about the longest wooden bridge in America, the quality of Duxbury's shellfish, and its place as the sixth-largest cranberry producer in the state.

The final stop on the Duxbury whirlwind tour was the Sun Tavern and an interview with new owner John Cowden. Even as time was running late, Costa still marveled at chef Christopher Treantafel's creations, especially the brussels sprouts.

"My wife and I had this conversation last night," Costa said. "You don't see enough brussels sprouts in restaurants."

As the "TV Diner" crew finished its whirlwind tour of Duxbury, Costa had a last bite of one of the Sun Tavern's pork chops and headed out the door to the next town.



"TV Diner" cameraman John Bacon, host Billy Costa, Duxbury Deli owner Kathy Callahan and producer Jenny Johnson check out the specials at the deli.